

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2221

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0801

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ, TZ

SUBJ: DIFFICULTY IN IDENTIFYING GEOGRAPHIC TERMS USED BY
FRELIMO

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 3785 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. DOUBT CAST ON ACCURACY OF FRELIMO REPORTS ON MILITARY SUCCESSES, VISITS BY OUTSIDERS TO SO-CALLED LIBERATED AREAS, AND OTHER ALLEGED ACHIEVEMENTS BY VAGUENESS OF NOMENCLATURE AND CONSEQUENT DIFFICULTY IN IDENTIFYING PLACES OR AREAS IN WHICH FRELIMO CLAIMS TO BE ACTIVE. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON PLACE NAMES AND LOCATIONS BASED ON FRELIMO USAGE WOULD BE HELPFUL IN ASSESSING THEIR REPORTS. END SUMMARY.

2. MOZAMBIQUE PRESS HAS NOT GIVEN COVERAGE TO TANZANIAN DELEGATION'S ALLEGED VISIT TO CABO DELGADO DISTRICT. IN TRYING TO ASSESS NEWSPAPER ARTICLE REPORTED REFTEL WE ARE, AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, HAMPERED BY OUR INABILITY IDENTIFY ANY OF THE PLACE NAMES CITED. WE CANNOT LOCATE ANY AREA, DISTRICT, CITY OR VILLAGE NAMED EITHER NG'APA OR LIMPOMPO, OR LIKELY PORTUGUESE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPELLING VARIANTS THEREOF, EITHER IN CABO DELGADO DISTRICT

OR ELSEWHERE IN MOZAMBIQUE.

3. IT IS OF COURSE QUITE POSSIBLE THAT UNIDENTIFIABLE PLACES CITED BY FRELIMO ARE SOMETIMES NAMES OF PURELY LOCAL USAGE FOR TINY LOCATIONS (AS IN CASE OF FAMOUS WIRIAMU), OR THAT FRELIMO DELIBERATELY CHANGES NAMES FOR SECURITY OR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS.

4. LOOKING THROUGH PLACE NAMES CITED IN RECENT FRELIMO COMMUNIQUE, WE NOTE THAT FRELIMO REFERS TO MOZAMBIQUE DISTRICTS AS "PROVINCES", AND HAS NOT ADOPTED 1970 SPLIT-UP OF MANICA E SOFALA INTO SEPARATE BEIRA AND VILA PEREIRA DISTRICTS. FRELIMO FREQUENTLY REFERS TO "REGIONS", --- THESE OFTEN HAVE SAME NAMES (USUALLY SPELLED IN ACCORD WITH PORTUGUESE PRACTICE) AS PORTUGUESE CONCELHOS AND CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS OR THEIR CAPITALS, BUT SOMETIMES REFER TO OTHER TOWNS OR GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES. THE FRELIMO TERM "ZONE" SEEMS TO REFER TO AN AREA SMALLER THAN A "REGION"; SOME NAMES OF ZONES ARE TO BE FOUND ON PORTUGUESE MAPS AND GAZETTEERS, OTHERS ARE NOT. IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE TERMS "REGION" OR "ZONE" ARE INTENDED TO HAVE ANY SPATIAL SIGNIFICANCE OTHER THAN "SOMEWHERE NEAR".

5. IN SPELLING SOME PORTUGUESE-RECOGNIZED NAMES, FRELIMO MAKES CHANGES WHICH APPEAR INTENDED TO RESEMBLE MORE CLOSELY AFRICAN PHONETICS (E.G. CAHORA BASSA FOR CABORA BASSA), OR TO ACCOMMODATE THE ENGLISH (AND POSSIBLY SWAHILI) SPELLING CONVENTIONS OF TANZANIA.

6. IT IS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SO-CALLED "LIBERATED AREAS" THAT QUESTION OF NOMENCLATURE BECOMES MOST IMPORTANT. FRELIMO ACCOUNTS -- AND THOSE OF RECIPIENTS OF FRELIMO "GUIDED TOURS" -- TEND TO BE EXTREMELY VAGUE GEOGRAPHICALLY, AND THE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS COULD USUALLY HAVE BEEN TAKEN ANYWHERE IN THE BUSH, INSIDE OR OUTSIDE MOZAMBIQUE. INFORMATION SUBSTANTIATING MORE PRECISELY JUST WHERE VISITORS TO "LIBERATED AREAS" GO WOULD HELP IN ASSESSING WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT ANY SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF FRELIMO "CONTROL" EXIST; WHETHER "LIBERATED AREAS" ARE PRIMARILY TRACTS OF UNINHABITED AND INACCESSIBLE TERRITORY ADJACENT TO THE MOZAMBIQUE BORDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR -- AS PORTUGUESE OFTEN MAINTAIN -- "POTEMKIN VILLAGES" LOCATED IN TANZANIA OR ZAMBIA. FRELIMO RETICENCE ON THE SUBJECT WOULD SEEM TO CORROBORATE OUR NOTION THAT THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, PLACES IN MOZAMBIQUE WHICH PORTUGUESE FORCES CANNOT REACH BY LAND OR AIR ONCE THEY DECIDE TO DO SO.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE SHOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING MAPS, GAZETTEERS OR OTHER INFORMATION ADDRESSEES OR DEPARTMENT

MAY HAVE WHICH COULD ASSIST US IN LOCATING AND IDENTIFYING
PLACES IN MOZAMBIQUE DESCRIBED IN FRELIMO MATERIAL. OUR
MAIN PRESENT SOURCES ARE NIS GAZETTEER OF OFFICIAL STANDARD
NAMES FOR MOZAMBIQUE (1969) AND "PRIMEIRA RELACAO DE NOMES
GEOGRAFICOS DA PROVINCIA DE MOCAMBIQUE" PUBLISHED BY MOZAM-
BIQUE GOVERNMENT IN 1962.
VAN OSS

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